

I'm going to see
Open Door
Community
Theatre's
production of

The
Little Mermaid!



I'm going to see a musical called The Little Mermaid!

I'm going to see a musical! A musical is a performance where actors sing, dance and pretend to be characters in a story! Sometimes musicals can be a little loud. Sometimes there may be bright lights. Most times, it is really fun and may make me want to dance and sing too!



I will go to East Ridge High School in Woodbury with my parents or caregivers! At the school, I will walk into a large room with lots of windows, but that isn't where the musical will be!



Helpers will show me and my group to the theatre where we will find our seats where we will watch the musical.



Once the show starts, the lights will dim, but they won't be totally dark. This is so if I need to move around or go to the bathroom, I can see where I am walking.

There will be helpers in the theatre and in the big space outside the theatre to help me if I need it.



Once the show starts, I might notice people moving beneath the stage in front. This is where the musicians play their instruments as part of the Orchestra!

If I need a break....

Outside the theatre, there will be some activities for me to do if I need a break during the musical.

Outside the theatre, there will be some snacks and water for me if I need it.



During the musical....

I will see many people dressed in colorful costumes pretending to be characters in the story of the Little Mermaid! These are some of the characters from the movie! The actors will look different than this.



Ariel



Ursula



Flounder



King
Triton

Scuttle

The musical is broken up into two acts or parts.

After the first part of the musical, the actors and audience gets to take a break. During this time, I can use the bathroom or get a snack or some water. I can also participate in stretching activities in the theatre. I can also walk around outside the theatre in the big room with windows.



When I see something I like during the musical I can clap and cheer!

Clapping after a song or a part in a musical shows the actors that I like what they are doing!



When the musical is finished the actors will take a bow!



I can clap and cheer when they bow too! I can also clap for the musicians and the people who operate the lights and sound (they are in the back of the theatre).

When the actors are done taking a bow, they will leave the stage and the lights will grow bright again in the theatre. I can leave and go home at this time.



The next two pages give an overview/synopsis of the musical!

A synopsis is just like a short story version of what will happen in the musical.



Act 1 Synopsis

Ariel, a beautiful young mermaid, and her best friend, Flounder come to the sea's surface, excited about what it would be like to live there. Ariel, finds a fork that has been tossed into the sea. A funny seagull named Scuttle swoops in and teaches Ariel and Flounder that this is a "dinglehopper". He also reminds Ariel that she's late for a special concert to honor her father, King Triton. She scurries back into the ocean in order to get to the concert.

On the ocean floor, Sebastian has arranged a concert in celebration of King Triton's anniversary as king. This concert features the King's seven daughters, but Ariel arrives late and misses her song. King Triton is worried about Ariel going to the surface so he assigns Sebastian to watch her and to keep her out of trouble. At the same time, Ursula's eels, Flotsam and Jetsam report to Ursula that Ariel missed her father's concert. This makes Ursula remember how much she hates Triton and she creates a terrible plan to get back at him.

Meanwhile, Ariel is sad that her dad doesn't see the world above to be as beautiful and wonderful as she and she longs to be "part of that world". Sebastian barges in and begins taking charge, but Ariel becomes distracted by a ship passing overhead. On the ship, Prince Eric and Grimsby argue. Suddenly, a violent storm overtakes the ship, throwing Eric overboard. Ariel, who had been admiring the Prince from afar, dives below the surface to rescue Eric, whom she returns safely to the shore and swims away. Prince Eric resolves to find Ariel. In an effort both to please Eric and find him a bride, Grimsby arranges a singing contest in order to locate the owner of the mysterious voice.

Below the surface, Sebastian attempts to talk Ariel into believing life is better "Under the Sea", but she sneaks away to her secret grotto where she is collecting all of her human things. King Triton finds Ariel here and becomes very angry and destroys her collection, including a statue of Prince Eric.

Sebastian tries to comfort her, but Ariel, is so upset that she believes Flotsam and Jetsam can help her. She follows Flotsam and Jetsam to the Sea Witch who offers to transform Ariel into a human in exchange for her voice. The contract Ursula makes Ariel sign states that Prince Eric must kiss Ariel within three days or she will turn back into a mermaid and become Ursula's slave forever. Overcome by her dreams of the world above, Ariel agrees to the bargain and trades her voice for human legs.

Act 2 Synopsis

In Act 2, Ariel washes up on the beach, with her friend Flounder and Sebastian. Flounder and Sebastian are worried about the three-day timeline. Prince Eric finds Ariel on the beach and brings her home to his palace. Ariel is excited by the wonders of palace life!

Sebastian, however finds himself in a bit of a predicament. He wanders into the kitchen of the palace, where the Chef discovers him and tries to make him part of the meal! Sebastian continues to elude the frustrated chef's grasp and gets away.

Prince Eric is still haunted by the mysterious voice of the girl who saved him and wishes to find her. Below the surface, Ursula begins to worry that perhaps, Prince Eric will indeed fall in love with Ariel despite her voice being gone. On the second day that Ariel is on land, her friends try to help her. Sebastian calls on lagoon animals to serenade Eric and Ariel, but Flotsam and Jetsam cause a commotion that blocks their kiss.

In desperation, Sebastian informs King Triton of Ariel's contract, and the King swears to settle things with Ursula once and for all. As night falls on the second day, Ariel wishes she could tell Eric how she truly feels while Eric longs for the mysterious voice, Sebastian wishes he could solve this predicament, and King Triton regrets pushing Ariel away. At the singing contest the next day, Ariel bursts through the crowd of opportunistic princesses and rather than singing, she dances, prompting Prince Eric to realize how much he truly loves her. But the sun has set, breaking the spell, and Ursula drags Ariel, a mermaid once again, back into the sea. King Triton confronts Ursula, who agrees to free Ariel if he hands over his trident and becomes Ursula's slave. Just as Ursula attempts to harness the power of the seas, now in her control, Ariel swims past her and grabs her magic shell, regaining her voice. Ursula becomes extremely angry and reveals that she was the one who murdered Ariel's mother! This prompts Ariel to destroy the shell and, with it, the Sea Witch.

With order restored, Ariel returns the trident to her father. Realizing that Ariel has grown up and that she cares deeply for Prince Eric, King Triton decides to restore her human form. Together, father and daughter swim to the surface, where Prince Eric proposes to Ariel, then learns that it has been her voice he has been seeking all along

Hope you enjoyed the show!

Open Door Community Theatre thanks you for coming!!!



Synopsis information and graphics from Disney's The Little Mermaid Production Handbook.